

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00174 051946Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OFA-01 OES-03 EB-07 COME-00 CG-00

DOT-00 SAB-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAL-01 SAM-01 /068 W

----- 069799

O R 051730Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6019

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT IMMEDIATE

CNO WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 0174

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS PFOR IC UK

SUBJECT: ICELAND-UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: FONMIN QUALIFIES THREAT
OF DIPLOMATIC BREAK

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY GAVE EMBOFF THIS AFTERNOON WATERED DOWN
VERSION OF FONMIN AGUSTSSON'S WARNING IN REUTERS INTERVIEW OF
DIPLOMATIC BREAK WITH UK IN EVENT FRIGATES COME BACK TO DISPUTED
WATERS.

2. AGUSTSSON WAS CITED IN INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL REUTERS REPRE-
SENTATIVE DATED FEBRUARY 5 AS SAYING THAT BREAK WOULD TAKE PLACE
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PAGE 02 REYKJA 00174 051946Z

IMMEDIATELY IF WARSHIPS RETURNED OR VERY SOON THEREAFTER. HE WAS

REPORTED AS ADDING THAT OTHER UNSPECIFIED SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES WOULD ALSO OCCUR. "IF THE BRITISH WARSHIPS (ARE SENT BACK) TO OUR BANKS, THERE WILL BE NO RETURN. IT WILL BE...A HISTORICAL TURN FOR THE WORSE," AGUSTSSON WAS QUOTED AS SAYING.

3. ACCORDING TO MFA PRESS OFFICER, AGUSTSSON HAD "MEANT TO SAY" THAT RETURN OF FRIGATES WOULD MEAN MATTERS WERE BACK TO SERIOUS SITUATION THAT EXISTED BEFORE THEY WITHDREW. THIS, IT WAS AGUSTSSON'S OPINION -- AS FON MIN, BUT NOT SPEAKING FOR CABINET -- THAT BREAK IN RELATIONS WOULD INEVITABLY FOLLOW. REGARDING TIMING OF BREAK FONMIN HAD NOT SAID "IMMEDIATELY" ACCORDING TO MFA SPOKESMAN, BUT HAD POINTED OUT THAT ACTION COULD INVOLVE MATTER OF DAYS.
IRVING

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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